Committee on working of AIIMS

*90. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased pleased to state:

(a) whether after great discontentment and indiscipline in the working of AIIMS, Government have set up a three-member Committee to look into the functioning of AIIMS and prescribe a remedy;

(b) if so, by what time the panel has been asked to submit its report alongwith the details of members and terms of reference of Committee;

(c) whether AIIMS is loosing its credibility as the quality and functioning of AIIMS over the past three to four years has not been satisfactory;

(d) if so, what other steps are being considered to restore its normal functioning; and

(e) whether the recent confrontation between the Minister and the Director has further worsened the position?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), is an autonomous institution constituted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Act, 1956. The Institute was established with the objective of developing standards of teaching in undergraduate/ postgraduate medical education so as to demonstrate high standard of medical education through all other institutions in the country. In order to achieve this objective, the Institute is engaged in Medical Education, Research and patient care services.

To further look into the functioning of AIIMS, the Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Valiathan, former Director of Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Thiruvananthapuram. The other members of the Committee are Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Dr. R.K. Srivastava, Director General of Health Services.

The Committee will submit its report within three months.

The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

1. To examine the extent to which the purpose and objectives for which AIIMS has been established, have been achieved.
2. To make recommendations for developing AIIMS from an institution of national importance into a Centre of Excellence and a leader in the area of public health for the entire country.
3. To make recommendations to empower and position AIIMS to make full use of emerging global opportunities.
4. To make recommendations for enhancing and strengthening the autonomy of AIIMS in order to enable it to fulfil its stated objectives.
5. The make recommendations on the efficient utilization of manpower resources with respect to attracting the best talent, retention of faculty, provision of better opportunities for utilizing the talent available and optimization of scientific/technical/non-technical manpower.
6. To examine the issues of critical infrastructural gaps and to suggest ways and means of bridging such gaps.
7. To recommend measures to deepen and expand the existing research base in the Institute.
8. To suggest any structural changes and amendments to the Act, Rules and Regulations that may be necessary to achieve the above objectives.

The Institute continue to be the Premier Medical Institution in the country. Over the last three years, there has been substantial increase in the budgetary support to the Institute. During 2006-07, budgetary support of the order of Rs.500.00 crores is provided for. The old schemes like Trauma Centre, IRCH, etc. which were pending for a number of years were got cleared. More than 400 posts have been sanctioned for IRCH and additional posts for various other centres are in the pipeline. However, there has been concern regarding day to day administrative functioning of the institute including the manner of handling of recent

strike which resulted in denial of patient care facilities etc. Certain representations from the Faculty representatives have been received concerning the non accessibility of the present Director, non utilization of Plan funds etc. These issues and the Director's action of criticizing the Government action through media were considered in the IB in its meeting held on 5th July, 2006, which formed an opinion to terminate the term of Office of Director as per the provisions of Regulation 31 of AIIMS Regulations, 1999. Even before the decision could be communicated, the Director, AIIMS, filed a writ petition before Delhi High Court. The High Court in its order dated 7-7-2006 restrained the Government from taking any decision on the recommendation of the Institute Body. The matter is currently *sub-judice.*

Electronic waste

†*91. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Environmentalists have expressed concern over the damage to the environment due to increasing electronic waste;

(b) whether Government have sought suggestions from environmentalists for resolving this problem;

(c) if so, the details there of; and

(d) whether Government are considering to enact a law to prevent the damage to the environment by E-waste?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Electronic waste, if not handled properly, may cause adverse impact on environment and health as it contains substances and chemicals, which are toxic in nature.

In a National Workshop on E-Waste Management held in 15th March 2004, which was participated by State Pollution Control Boards, NGOs, Industrial Associations and other experts in the field, recommendation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.